

## ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for predictive buffering in a media recorder, the method comprising the steps of predictively determining at least one program of interest to a user, and buffering a portion of the program. The program is selected using various criteria. The buffering process allows a user to start viewing the program within a predetermined period after the program has started. If a user does not start watching the program within the predetermined period, buffering is halted, the buffered data is discarded and, optionally, another program is buffered.